



Urmston Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY
INSPECTOR

for the Year

1938.

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Urmston Urban District Council.

Chairman of the Council: Councillor F. E. TRIGG, J.P.

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE. 1938 — 1939.

Councillor Dr. R. H. Tootill, *Chairman*.

Councillor R. P. Cartwright, *Vice-Chairman*.

Councillor J. H. Batten

Councillor S. N. Penlington

Councillor Mrs. B. E. Bull

Councillor S. C. Shaw

Councillor T. E. Collyer

Councillor H. Stewart

Councillor J. Marsh

Councillor W. Wroe

Clerk of the Council—

T. E. WHITELEGG.

Medical Officer of Health (Acting)—

A. V. STOCKS, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—

R. G. CHILD, M.S.I.A. (Retired 31st December, 1938).

* W. WOOD, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A. (Appointed January, 1939).

Additional Sanitary Inspector—

* L. HALL, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Clerks in Public Health Department—

G. W. Blake

M. Lambert

Miss K. Nicklin

* Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

URMSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Table I—STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area : 4,797 acres.

Population : Registrar General's Estimate for 193832,030
Census 1931 (prior to amalgamation of districts) ... 9,284

Number of occupied houses 31st December, 193810,530

Number of occupied houses Census 1931 (prior to
amalgamation) 2,474

General Rate 1938-39, 13/4d.

Rateable Value at 31st December, 1938—£324,231.

Product of a penny rate—£1,247.

Table II—VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	Total M. F.			Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 16.6.
	Legitimate	520	257	263
	Illegitimate	13	5	8
	Total	533	262	271

Still Births ... 24 15 9 Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 43.

Deaths 294 157 137 Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, *9.1

Deaths from Puerperal causes—

	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births.
Puerperal sepsis	—	—
Other puerperal causes	1	1.79
Total	1	1.79

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births...	..	26
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		26
Illegitimate ,, ,, ,, illegitimate ,, ,,		nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... ..	46
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	... ..	1
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	.. ...	1
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	... ..	nil

Population Estimated	Per 1,000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1000 Live Births
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death Rate	Death rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births	
Mid 1938 —32,030							
Mean of 5 years—							
1933—1937	16.2	10.3	0.39	1.57	5.96	5.68	45
Year 1937	17.3	9.9	0.49	1.37	11.34	10.83	58
1938	16.6	*9.1	0.40	1.43	1.87	1.79	26
Increase or Decrease in 1938 on 5 years average, 1933-1937	+0.4	—1.2	+0.01	—0.14	—4.09	—3.89	—19
Previous Year	—0.7	—0.8	—0.09	+0.06	—9.47	—9.04	—32

*1938 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor 1.09) = 9.9 per 1,000

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, OF URMSTON.

June, 1939.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district. The report deals with the year ending 31st December, 1938, and the arrangement of sections is in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 1728 of 25th October, 1938.

SECTION A.—GEOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Urmston Urban District lies 6 miles west-south-west of Manchester and consists of a large residential area, and a large industrial area comprising more than half of the Trafford Park Estate. The district is very flat and covers an area of 4,797 acres; the height above the Ordnance datum varies from 50—80 feet. The district is bounded on the north-west by the Manchester Ship Canal, on the south by the River Mersey and on the east and north-east by the Borough of Stretford.

Prior to amalgamation with the Davyhulme and Flixton portions of the Barton-upon-Irwell Rural District in April, 1933, the population of the Urmston Urban District was 9,284 (Census 1931); it is now estimated by the Registrar General to be 32,030.

The development of housing has been very rapid in the district during the past few years as the following figures show :—

NUMBER OF OCCUPIED HOUSES.

31st December, 1935.....	8,477.
„ „ 1936.....	9,178.
„ „ 1937.....	9,818.
„ „ 1938.....	10,530.

The residential area is well laid out, with wide roads and abundant open spaces and recreation grounds, including two golf courses, and several parks. There is a large public swimming baths with indoor swimming pool, erected by the Council six years ago.

The chief industries carried on in Trafford Park are petroleum storage, oil refining and tea bonding; manufacture of asbestos, steel, wire, chemicals and furniture; engineering and electricity works and the disposal of abattoir products.

Unemployment in the district is not extensive in comparison with neighbouring areas. There is no evidence to show that unemployment has exercised any marked influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

There has not been any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has required investigation or any causes of sickness or invalidity that have been especially noteworthy.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE.—The births registered numbered 533 representing a birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population of 16.6. Stillbirths numbered 24.

Year.	Total Births.	Birth Rate.	Administrative County	England and Wales.
1935.	454.	16.2.	13.31.	14.7.
1936.	465.	16.1.	13.63.	14.8.
1937.	529.	17.3.	13.81.	14.9.
1938.	533	16.6.	14.14.	15.1.

INFANT MORTALITY.—The Death Rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births was 26, a remarkably low figure, as compared with 58 in 1937 and a mean of the five years 1933—1937 of 45.

The rate for the County Administrative area was 62 in 1937; for England and Wales it was 58 in 1937, and 53 in 1938, the lowest ever recorded.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—The rate per 1000 live and still births was 1.79 compared with an average for the five years 1933—1937 of 5.68. Actually only one death from puerperal causes occurred in 1938.

GENERAL DEATH RATE.—The crude death rate per 1000 of the estimated population was 9.1 and adjusted death rate 9.9.

Year.	Total Deaths.	Crude Death Rate.	Administrative County	England and Wales.
1935.	280.	10.0.	12.62.	11.7.
1936.	319.	11.0.	12.85.	12.1.
1937.	304.	9.9.	13.29.	12.4.
1938.	294	9.1.	12.29.	*11.6.

(* Lowest ever recorded except 1930—11.4).

Table III.—CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1938.

				Males	Females
Measles	...	...	...	1	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	—
Influenza	...	...	...	1	—
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal	...	...	...	1	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	9	4
do. (non-respiratory)	„	„	„	2	2
Syphilis	...	...	...	1	—
General Paralysis of Insane	...	...	...	1	—
Cancer	...	...	...	20	26
Diabetes	...	...	...	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	4	6
Heart Disease	...	...	...	38	45
Aneurysm	...	...	...	—	1
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	9	8
Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	8	1
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	1	—
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	—	2
Appendicitis	...	...	...	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	1	—
Other Liver diseases	...	...	...	1	—
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	9	4
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	5	3
Puerperal causes (excluding Sepsis)	...	...	...	—	1
Congenital Debility, etc.	...	...	...	5	5
Senility	...	...	...	5	6
Suicide	...	...	...	—	1
Other violence	...	...	...	12	3
Other defined causes	...	...	...	15	16
All causes				157	137
Deaths of Infants under one year				Total	9
				Legitimate	9
				Illegitimate	—

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**—Pathological and bacteriological examinations are undertaken by arrangement with the Manchester University, Department of Bacteriology and Preventive Medicine, at their Laboratory in York Place, Manchester, and with the Clinical Research Association Ltd., London. The number of examinations carried out during 1938 on behalf of the Council was 195 made up as follows :—

SWABS.—	
Diphtheria	109
Haemolytic Streptococci	1
BLOOD.—	
Typhoid	2
MILK.—	
Biological	51
Bacteriological	27
FOOD.—	
Food Poisoning	1
WATER.—	
Bacteriological	3
Chemical	1
	195

(b) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**—For the removal of cases of infectious disease, the motor ambulances belonging to the Salford Corporation and the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board are available. For non-infectious cases, accident cases and maternity patients, arrangements exist with the Stretford and Eccles Corporations for the use of their motor ambulances.

(c) **MEDICAL AND NURSING FACILITIES IN THE HOME.**

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.—There are 12 resident doctors in the district, in addition to some residing in the neighbouring districts who practice in the area.

GENERAL NURSING.—For general nursing purposes nurses from the Urmston Cottage Hospital, and the Urmston, Flixton and Davyhulme Nursing Association visit patients as required. The Association does not undertake midwifery cases (i.e., in attendance at confinements without a medical practitioner) or monthly nursing. The Association is affiliated to the County Nursing Association and employs two nurses permanently, and one additional nurse temporarily as required. No special arrangements exist for the nursing at home of cases of infectious disease.

MIDWIVES.—Three Midwives are employed by the Lancashire County Council to attend confinements in the Urmston Urban District and reside within the district.

HEALTH VISITORS.—The services of two Health Visitors, employed by the Lancashire County Council, are available in the district, in addition to visiting nurses under the Tuberculosis Scheme.

(d) **TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.**—

WELFARE CENTRES.—There are three Welfare Centres for mothers and babies in the district and these are under the control of the Lancashire County Council. These are held as follows :—

Davyhulme—Mondays 2-0 —4-0 p.m.

Flixton —Tuesdays 2-30—4-0 p.m.

Urmston —Wednesdays 2-0 —4-0 p.m.

The Davyhulme and Urmston Centres are held at “ The Moorlands,” Cornhill Road, Davyhulme, and the Flixton Centre was transferred from the Institute, Flixton Road, to the Alker Hall, Flixton Road, in June 1938.

The number of attendances at these centres was as follows :—

1936 10,446.

1937 10,762.

1938 12,671.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.—These are held as under :—

(1) Infant Welfare Centre, Green Lane, Patricroft :

Fridays : 9-30—12 noon.

2-0 p.m.—4-0 p.m.

(2) Park Hospital, Davyhulme :

Tuesdays : 8-30 a.m. (“NewBookings”).

Wednesdays : 9-30 a.m. (Consultations).

SCHOOL CLINIC.—This is provided by the Lancashire County Council

MINOR AILMENTS.—Cases are seen on Mondays from 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon, and on Thursdays at 1-30 p.m. for re-dressings.

OPHTHALMIC.—Cases are seen at fortnightly clinics by appointment, by a Specialist appointed by the County Council.

ORTHOPAEDIC.—Cases are seen by a Consulting Orthopaedic Surgeon by appointment at Longfield Lodge, Cadishead, where remedial exercise classes are held weekly also.

DENTAL TREATMENT.—Is given by appointment on two and a half days per week.

EAR, NOSE, THROAT AND EYE DEFECTS.—Special arrangements exist between the Lancashire County Council and the Park Hospital, Ancoats Hospital and the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, for the treatment of certain defects of the nose, Throat, ear and eye.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—Clinics are held at the School Clinic and are further referred to under Section F.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.—The Lancashire County Council Dispensary is situated at No. 28, Gilda Brook Road, Eccles. Patients are seen on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2-30 p.m. and on Fridays at 9-30 a.m. New patients require a note from their Medical Attendant.

(e) **HOSPITALS—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.**

GENERAL.—The district is well served in the matter of hospital accommodation. The Park Hospital, Davyhulme, with 500 beds, has been transferred recently to the County Public Health Department. There are also the Urmston Cottage Hospital and the Eccles and Patricroft Hospital close at hand. The numerous large voluntary hospitals in Manchester and Salford treat a large number of patients from the Urmston District. The Council contributes an annual sum of £300 to the Manchester and Salford Medical Charities Fund.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—By an Agreement dated 9th September, 1930, between the Council and the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board, provision is made for the reception at the Board's hospital of smallpox patients from this district. Two beds are available for which an annual retaining fee is paid.

For the treatment of tuberculosis the sanatoria of the Lancashire County Council are available.

For other infectious diseases a new agreement has been made, dated 12th May, 1938, with the Salford Corporation for the accommodation of patients at the Ladywell Sanatorium, in conjunction with neighbouring authorities, under the County Council Scheme.

MATERNITY.—Beds are available for maternity patients at Park Hospital, Davyhulme, and the Urmston Cottage Hospital; also in two private nursing homes registered by the County Council and regularly inspected.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.— This is supplied by the Manchester Corporation and is of good quality. A constant and direct supply is maintained to each dwelling-house in the district.

The water is analysed at regular intervals by the Manchester Corporation Waterworks department, and on three occasions samples were taken by the staff of the Public Health Department for bacteriological examination, and on one occasion for chemical analysis. The results were satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.— The sewage is treated in detritus tanks and continuous filters. All sewers in the district are flushed with fresh water as required and all new drains are submitted to water test.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.— All water courses are regularly inspected and action taken where necessary to check pollution.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.— There are now no Privy Middens or Privy Closets in the district. The number of Pail Closets has decreased from 58 to 35. At the end of the year there were :—

5 Dry Ashpits (excluding middens).
 10,800 Movable Ashbins.
 10,771 Houses on water carriage system.
 10,721 Fresh Water Closets.
 50 Waste Water Closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.— The collection and disposal of house refuse and the scavenging of roads and streets is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector and particulars of this work are given in his report.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA—The following is a summary, in so far as they can be tabulated, of all visits and inspections made during the past year :—

INSPECTIONS MADE:—

Dwelling Houses—(Public Health Act)	...	...	384
„ „ —(Housing Acts)	...	...	213
„ „ —(Housing Acts Overcrowding)			30
Complaints investigated	...	...	294
Drainage	...	...	407
New Drains tested	...	...	426
Public Markets	...	...	124
Water Courses	...	...	22
Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops	...	...	260
Bakehouses	...	...	64
Slaughterhouses	...	...	186

Butchers' Shops	79
Visits <i>re</i> Shops Acts	142
Ice Cream Premises...	22
Factories	20
Workshops...	14
Offensive Trades	3
Refuse Tips	309
Public Conveniences	28
Smoke Observations	39
Petroleum Act...	81
Tents, Vans and Sheds	9
Interviews with owners, etc.	53
Council House Applications...	163
Re-inspections	820
Miscellaneous Visits...	364
Visits to Cold Stores	18
Infectious Diseases...	175
Rats and Mice...	23
Milk Samples	106
Water Samples...	16
Food Inspections (other than meat)	35
	<hr/>
	4929
	<hr/>

SHOPS AND OFFICES.—Owing to the fairly recent development of the district, retail shops are generally of modern type, and suitable provision has usually been made for proper sanitary accommodation, heating, ventilation, etc.

During the year it has been necessary to draw the attention of shopkeepers to certain minor contraventions of Sec. 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, but on each occasion the work necessary was carried out at the request of the Inspector without resort to Statutory Action.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.—It has not been found possible to carry out the routine inspections of office accommodation during the year, owing to the large amount of additional work in other directions.

CAMPING SITES.—Number of sites in area used for

- (1) Camping purposes during 1938 Nil.
- (2) Number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the local authority under Sec. 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 Nil.
- (3) The Estimated Maximum number of Campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season 1938 Nil.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The number of observations taken was 39, each of 30 minutes duration, and of these 7 were considered unsatisfactory on account of the excessive emission of black smoke. Warning letters were addressed to each firm, and the boiler fireman or engineer interviewed, and it is satisfactory to note that in most of the cases this had the desired effect.

The Council is represented on the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee, and negotiations are still in progress regarding the formation of the Joint Regional Statutory Board for Smoke Abatement. It is hoped that the scheme will soon be put into operation to the benefit of all the areas concerned.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The Council has erected at a cost of £30,000 an indoor swimming pool with slipper, foam, and medicated baths. Bacteriological and chemical examinations of the water are undertaken at regular intervals. There are not any privately-owned swimming baths or pools open to the public in the district.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

This question has not caused undue concern to the Department during the past year, as the incidence of infested houses in the district compares favourably with other districts of similar size and population.

(a) No. of Council houses found to be infested	8
No. of Council houses disinfested	8
(b) No. of other houses found to be infested	13
No. of other houses disinfested	13

Disinfestation is carried out by a trained workman employed by the Department under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, and where ever practicable, all woodwork, wall-paper, etc., is removed and the rooms sprayed with a contact "Insecticide" (Zaldecide), following which the rooms are sealed and fumigated (Fumoid Block).

Where it is suspected that the belongings of tenants who are to occupy Council houses are infested with vermin all furnishings are thoroughly fumigated before the removal takes place.

So far as it is possible re-visits are paid by the sanitary inspectors to houses which have been cleansed and freed from vermin, and it is usually found that occupiers appreciate the advice given by the inspector and an effort is made to maintain the house in a cleanly and vermin-free condition.

SCHOOLS.

All are kept in a good sanitary condition and are sufficiently supplied with water. The department is in constant co-operation with the School Authorities in relation to the health of the scholars and for preventing the spread of infectious disease. No closure of schools for epidemic illness was necessary during 1938.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—Three trades are established in the district under this head; one tripe boiler and gut scraper, and two soap boilers.

During the year a complaint was received in connection with the smell arising from the gut scraping premises, but following a visit from an inspector the source of the nuisance was located, and the alterations that were afterwards effected eliminated the trouble.

FACTORIES.—In July the Factories Act 1937 came into operation, which drastically amended legislation previously governing factories and workshops.

The definition 'workshop' having disappeared, factories have become either 'mechanical' or 'non-mechanical' and details of the action taken under this head are to be found in Tables IV and V.

In view of the alterations in the law, an inspection of all these factories is at present in progress, and where necessary, work is being put in hand.

OUTWORKERS.—Notices affecting 17 persons living in this district, have been received during the year, and the place of work has been inspected in each case. On no occasion was there found cause for complaint.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

I—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1—(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	..	107
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	...	...	597
2—(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 & 1932				88
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	...	...	492

3—Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	19
4—Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	88
2—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF STATUTORY NOTICES :—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Council ...	44
3—ACTION UNDER <i>STATUTORY</i> POWERS DURING THE YEAR—	
(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	8
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of statutory notices :—	
(a) By owners ...	4
(b) By the Council in default of owners	Nil.
(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil
(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of Separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Table IV.—Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspec- tions. (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES with mechanical power	20	6	Nil.
FACTORIES without mechanical power	14	4	Nil.
OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	1	1	Nil.
	35	11	Nil.

Table V.—Defects Found.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prose- cutions were in- stituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remed- ied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (Sec: 1)	9	9	—	—
Overcrowding (Sec: 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (Sec: 3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (Sec: 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec: 6) ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec: 7)	Insufficient	1	1	—
	Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—
	Not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
Total	11	11	—	—

4—HOUSING ACT, 1936, Part IV. OVERCROWDING :—

(A)—Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	Nil.
(B) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	Nil.
(C)—(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	..	...	2
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	16
(D) Number of dwelling houses which have again become overcrowded after the Council have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	Nil.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—There are 16 cowkeepers, 17 dairymen, and 17 milk purveyors (bottled milk only) on the authority's register at present; in addition 11 milk purveyors are registered from outside the district.

The number of milk producers is still decreasing whilst milk purveyors tend to increase, this being the result of the rapid urbanisation of the district. In consequence more milk is being brought into the district; this milk is produced in the neighbouring County of Cheshire.

Four retailers are licensed for the sale of "Tuberculin Tested" milk, two for the sale of "Accredited" milk, and two supplementary licences are in force for the sale of "Pasteurised" milk. Two producers in the district hold licences for the production of "Accredited" milk, although the milk is not retailed to the public under any special designation.

The sampling of milk produced or retailed in the district has been continued, and the number of samples taken has been substantially increased following a resolution by the Health and Housing Committee at their meeting on the 16th March, 1938. Table VI is a summary of the results obtained from biological or bacteriological examination of the samples.

Table VI.—SAMPLING OF MILK DURING 1938.

Sample No.	Nature o Sample.	Cultivation of Bacteria at 37° C. in 48 hours per l.c.c.	Bacillus Coli present in			Tubercle Bacilli.
			l.Occ.	0.1 cc. of 3 tubes	0.01 cc. of 3 tubes	
†1	Raw Milk					See note
2	" "					negative
3	Accredited Milk					"
4	" "					"
†5	Raw Milk					See note
6	" "					positive
7	" "					negative
8	" "					"
9	" "					"
10	" "					"
11	" "					"
12	" "					"
13	" "					"
14	" "					"
15	" "					"
16	" "					"
*17	" "					See note
18	" "					negative
19	" "					"
20	" "					"
21	" "					positive
22	" "					"
23	" "					negative
24	" "					"
25	" "					"
26	Accredited Milk	186000	present	3	3	"
27	" "					"
28	Raw Milk					"
29	" "					"
x30	Accredited Milk					See note
31	Raw Milk					negative
32	" "					"
33	" "					positive
34	" "					negative
35	" "	33000	present	—	—	"
36	" "					"
37	" "	304000	present	3	3	"
38	" "					"
39	" "	53000	present	1	—	"
40	" "					"
41	" "	46000	present	1	—	"
42	" "	152000	present	—	—	"
43	" "	81000	present	3	2	"
44	" "	3060000	present	3	3	"
45	" "	90000	absent	—	—	"
46	" "					"
47	" "					"
48	" "					"
49	" "					"
50	" "					positive
51	" "	38000	present	3	3	"
52	" "					"
53	" "	8800	present	3	2	"

TABLE VI.
SAMPLING OF MILK DURING 1938—*continued*.

Sample No.	Nature of Sample.	Cultivation of Bacteria at 37° C in 48 hours per 1 c.c	Bacillus Coli present in			Tubercle Bacilli.
			1.0 cc.	0.1 cc. of 3 tubes	0.01. cc. of 3 tubes	
54	Raw Milk					negative
55	" "	410000	present	1	—	"
56	" "					"
57	" "	5100	present	—	—	"
58	" "					"
59	" "	16900	present	3	3	"
60	Accredited Milk					"
x61	" "					See note
62	Raw Milk	27000	present	3	2	negative
63	" "					"
64	" "	119000	present	3	3	"
65	" "					"
66	" "	27400	present	3	—	"
67	" "					"
68	" "	221000	present	2	1	"
69	" "	90000	present	3	3	"
70	" "					"
71	" "	94000	present	3	3	"
72	" "					"
73	" "	11400	present	3	3	"
74	" "					"
75	" "	30400	present	3	1	"
76	" "	370000	present	2	—	"
77	" "					"
78	" "	310000	present	1	—	"
79	" "					"
80	" "	17100	present	3	3	"
81	" "					"

† Bottle containing sample broken on arrival at laboratory.

* Two animals inoculated with specimen died shortly after inoculation.

x Methylene Blue test and Coliform test—both satisfactory.

In the latter part of the year, the Lancashire County Council sought the co-operation of this authority in connection with the operation of a scheme for the Cytological examination of milk samples, in an endeavour to shorten the "time lag" which ordinarily operates with the examination of samples biologically.

This authority gave their assistance whole-heartedly and although the data collected at present are not sufficient to indicate any conclusive results, it is hoped that the success of the method will be such as to ensure its permanent retention.

During the year, 260 visits were made to cowsheds, dairies, milk shops, etc., and taken as a whole the standard of production, distribution and handling of milk was fairly satisfactory.

Many necessary improvements in cowsheds have been effected, but in a number of cases, structural conditions are such as to prove a definite handicap to the farmer or milk retailer. It is to be hoped that in the future, more producers of milk will see the advantage of improving the environmental condition of their herds, and thus gain the increased financial aids offered by the Milk Marketing Board.

MEAT.—Of the three slaughter-houses situated in the area, one is registered and the other two licensed, and in each instance the slaughter-house forms a part of the premises used by a retail butcher.

In view of the limited number of carcasses dressed inspection is 100 per cent. effective, this including, as far as practicable, ante-mortem inspection of the animals.

The quality of meat dealt with on the whole was satisfactory, 1-cwt. 27-lbs. being subject to voluntary surrender, chiefly on account of tuberculosis. On no occasion was it necessary to make an official seizure.

The shops of the 25 retail meat traders were regularly inspected and an excellent standard was maintained, the traders making every endeavour to comply with the requirements of the Meat Regulations.

Visits were made, when necessary, to the Trafford Park Cold Stores, where consignments of imported mutton were received at intervals throughout the year; 5 per cent. of all consignments were examined as a matter of routine but when signs of disease or unsoundness were found, the examination was extended to the whole consignment.

OTHER FOODS.—All shops and stalls retailing, storing or preparing foodstuffs are subject to routine inspection, and included in this category is the Urmston Open Market where approximately 50 persons are engaged twice weekly in the sale of foodstuffs.

During the year the Council made bye-laws, which were afterwards confirmed by the Minister of Health, regulating the sale of food on open sites, and these are being put into effect in relation to the Urmston Market.

The large factory owned by Messrs. Simpson Ready Foods Ltd., Stretford Road, Urmston, was also visited at frequent intervals and the foodstuffs being prepared, which included jellies, jams, puddings, mincemeat, soups, etc., were inspected to ensure their fitness for human food.

It was necessary during the year for my name to be added to a panel of authorised examining officers for purposes of the Canadian Meat Regulations on account of the export trade carried on by this Compnay.

ICE CREAM.—All persons employed in the sale of Ice Cream and premises used for the preparation of this commodity are now registered under the provisions of the Urmston U.D.C. Act, 1935, and the regulations made by the Council in this connection were satisfactorily complied with on the whole.

In one or two instances, however, salesmen of outside firms retailing Ice Cream in the district were cautioned for an apparent lack of personal cleanliness, and the firms in question notified of the condition of their employees.

ADULTERATION, CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—The sampling and analysis of food and drugs in this district is under the control of the Lancashire County Constabulary. The Superintendent of Police reports the following samples obtained in the district under the Foods and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

Milk	67	Gravy Browning	2
Castor Oil	4	Margarine	4
Glycerine	4	Suet Chips	1
Olive Oil	2	Ground Ginger	3
Lard	5	Fruits for salad	1
Tapioca	5	Coffee	1
Malt Vinegar	4	Fish Paste	1
Calves foot jelly	1	Pepper	1
Seminola	1	Zinc Ointment	1
Mixed pickles	2	Potted Meat	1
Ground Almonds	2	Strawberry Jam	1
Damson Jam	2		

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOODS.—By arrangement with the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester, examinations of samples of foodstuffs were carried out when necessary.

OUTBREAK OF SUSPECTED FOOD POISONING.—An outbreak of suspected food poisoning was reported on 10th December, 1938 among the employees of a firm in Trafford Park, about 70 persons being affected.

Investigation showed that all had partaken of a meal consisting of steak and kidney puddings in the works canteen at noon on the previous day.

Samples of the meat and suet used for the preparation of the meal were taken and examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, but with negative results. Some of the employees were off work for several days, but no serious results other than this resulted. Seventeen employees were interviewed as to their symptoms by the Medical Officer, and an inspection of the canteen kitchen and utensils was made and the cleanliness left nothing to be desired.

Examination of the faeces of two of the persons affected was also without result.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are 23 bakehouses on the register and none of these are underground. The periodical inspections made during the year showed that the occupiers were endeavouring to maintain the high standard previously reached by the bakers and confectioners in this district.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.—The number of notifications of infectious disease (excluding tuberculosis) was 199 in 1938. Only 132 of these notifications referred to persons ordinarily resident in the district, the remaining 67 being persons normally resident outside Urmston district, who were in Park Hospital at the time of notification.

The presence of a large hospital of 500 beds in the district, taking in patients from many districts outside Urmston, results in the notification of a number of cases of infectious disease from the Hospital; a number of these cases occur in patients whose homes are outside the district and who come into hospital incubating some infectious disease, or are unfortunate enough to contract it while in hospital. Table VII distinguishes between the infectious diseases notified by private practitioners and those notified from the hospital.

The number of notifications of infectious disease occurring in residents shows a decline compared with 1937. It may also be pointed out that the 132 notifications referred to above, 21 relate to Chicken-pox, which is not usually notifiable in the district but was made so from August to the end of October 1938, owing to the occurrence of cases of Small-pox in the locality. Allowing for this the remaining notifications show a decline of 31 (i.e., from 142 to 111) amongst persons ordinarily resident in Urmston.

SMALLPOX.—Except for a few cases at Gravesend, no cases of Smallpox were reported in England for over twelve months prior to July, 1938. On 21st July, two cases were

Table VIII.—NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS
DISEASES DURING 1938.

(Excluding Tuberculosis)

(The Numbers in brackets refer to 1937 for comparison)

Disease	Notified by General Practi- tioner (a)	Notified from Park Hospital		Total of Columns (a) and (b)	Total Notifica- tions		
		Ordinarily resident in Urmston (b)	Ordinarily resident outside Urmston (c)		(a)	(b)	(c)
Scarlet Fever	47 (71)	2 (3)	1 (8)	49 (74)	50		(82)
Diphtheria	19 (14)	6 (4)	20 (7)	25 (18)	45		(25)
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	2 (1)	—	2		(1)
Dysentery	1	—	—	1	1		
Smallpox	3	—	—	3	3		
Chickenpox	21	—	—	21	21		
Erysipelas.....	7 (10)	1	— (2)	8 (10)	8		(12)
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	3 (1)	4 (4)	3 (1)	7		(5)
Puerperal Pyrexia....	1	1 (2)	9 (9)	2 (2)	11		(11)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1 (1)	— (1)	—	1 (2)	1		(2)
Encephalitis Letaargica	1	—	1	1	2		
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	1		
Pneumonia	11 (30)	7 (5)	29 (2)	18 (35)	47		(37)
	112 (126)	20 (16)	67 (33)	132 (142)	199		(175)

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1938.

“Notifiable” Disease.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.													HOSPITAL.		
	Total cases at all ages.	under 1-	AGE PERIODS—YEARS.										65 and over.	Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
			1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-				
	(a)												(b)	(c)	(d)	
Smallpox ...	3							1	1			1		3		
Scarlet Fever...	50		4	4	5	22	9	2	2			2	1	26	1	
Diphtheria ...	45		2	2	1	6	5	5	3			1	2	45		
Pneumonia (Ac. Prim)... (Ac. Infl)...	47	1	1		2	2	1	4	9			9	16	39	3	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	11								9			2		10		
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	7	2	1	1				1	2				3	7	3	
Enteric Fever ...	2								2					2		
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1		1											1		
Encephalitis Lethargica...	2								1			1		2		
Dysentery ..	1								1							
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	1	1														
Erysipelas ...	8	1						1				2	3	4		
Chicken-pox ..	21	1	3	1	3	2	9	2								
Totals ...	199	6	7	8	9	15	51	17	14	30	16	23	3	139	7	

notified in Wigan, one of whom was employed at the Irlam Steel Works. There were over one-hundred contacts of this case at the works and all except one were vaccinated within thirty-six hours of the notification of the case. Eleven of these contacts resided in Urmston. Two of these developed a mild attack of Smallpox on August 1st and 2nd, the attack being modified by the vaccination previously performed; these cases were promptly removed to hospital. A third case was discovered in a local doctor's surgery on the 3rd August and was removed to hospital; this man, although an employee at the Steel Works, was not a known contact with the original case. There were 112 contacts with these three cases locally, and because of this the Council was asked to make Chickenpox notifiable for three months, with the approval of the Ministry. This Order was in force until 31st October, 1938. The occurrence of these cases of Smallpox threw much additional work on the Public Vaccinator, and upon the staff of the department in ascertaining contacts and arranging for their daily supervision. Valuable assistance was rendered by the County Medical Officer who paid three personal visits, by the Sanitary Inspector of the County and by two of the County Health Visitors. It is satisfactory to record that no further cases occurred, the measures taken having proved adequate in preventing any further spread of the disease.

SCARLET FEVER.— This disease was less prevalent in 1938, there being 50 notifications as against 82 in 1937.

The number of cases treated in hospital was 26. There was one death. Scarlatinal anti-toxin is provided free of charge by the Council to medical practitioners, where, in their judgment, the use of it to prevent scarlet fever is justifiable and necessary.

DIPHTHERIA.— The number of notifications during the year shows a considerable increase from 25 in 1937 to 45 in 1938, but most of this is attributable to the prevalence of diphtheria in the surrounding districts causing a large increase in notifications received from Park Hospital relating to persons ordinarily resident outside Urmston; these notifications increased from 7 to 20.

The diphtheria cases occurring among residents increased from 18 in 1937 to 25 in 1938. It has to be borne in mind in this connection that :—

(a) Diphtheria has been more than ordinarily prevalent in districts around Urmston during 1938, and there have been some severe epidemics within a few miles radius.

(b) Four of the cases classed as ordinarily resident in Urmston occurred in young nurses living in Park Hospital who contracted the disease from patients but are included in the local notifications in column (b) ;

(c) The full effect of the immunisation campaign was not likely to be felt until towards the end of 1938.

(d) Only six cases of Diphtheria occurred among children attending Public Elementary Schools in this district, and only one doubtful mild case occurred in any child who had had a full course of immunisation.

SUPPLY OF ANTITOXIN.—Diphtheria antitoxin is provided by the Council and is available at local chemists, and also at the Urmston Police Station by day or night at times when chemists' supplies are not available.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—The Scheme inaugurated in 1937 and described in last year's Report was in full operation throughout 1938.

The Scheme provides for the injection of three doses of toxoid-antitoxin floccules at intervals of a fortnight by general medical practitioners working on a rota, at sessions at the School clinic. Twelve doctors are taking turns on the rota and arrangements have worked smoothly and owe much to the co-operation of the local members of the medical profession.

The Council provides the toxoid-antitoxin material, pays the fees of the medical practitioners and provides the necessary clerical assistance; the Lancashire County Council allows the use of the School clinic and provides the nursing assistance at the actual sessions.

Number of Children Immunised :—

Year	School Children.	Children under School Age.	Total
1937 	397	55	452
1938 	1132	251	1383
1939 (to end of March) ...	104	60	164
	1633	366	1999

Out of the total 1999 only 24 failed to complete the required course of treatment, the reasons being as follows :—

Left the district	5
Reaction following treatment	7
Other illness causing interruption	2
No reasons given	10

SCHICK TESTS.— During 1938, 169 children were Schick tested, and a further 38 Schick tests were done in the first quarter of 1939. These were mainly post-Schick tests done in order to determine whether children in one of the following categories were immune or not, with a view to deciding upon the desirability of further immunisation treatment. The Tests were done by selected medical practitioners, at the School clinic :—

(1) The first group consisted of 142 children who had been :—
 (a) previously immunised by private practitioners or under other local authorities' schemes at various times during the past eight years. These children numbered 44, and Schick tests during 1938 showed 37 (or 84 per cent.) to be still immune.
 (b) previously immunised under the Lancashire County Council's Scheme in 1931—33. These numbered 98, and Schick Tests during 1938 showed that 78 (or 80 per cent.) were still immune.

(2) The second group consisted of 27 children who had had diphtheria at some time previously. Schick Tests showed that ten of these had lost immunity conferred by the disease and were again susceptible.

(3) The third consisted of 15 children who had had one or two injections of T.A.F. under the present scheme and had been unable to complete the course. All except one were found on Schick testing to be sufficiently immunised by the treatment already given. The interval elapsing between treatment and Schick testing varied from 3—12 months.

PROTECTION CONFERRED BY IMMUNISATION.—Three cases of diphtheria or suspected diphtheria have occurred during 1938 in children who had had some immunisation treatment, but the circumstances were not such as to throw doubt on the efficacy of immunisation.

In one case the diphtheria was contracted before the second injection was due and in another case it was contracted a fortnight after completing the course and before protective effect could be established. In the third case there were three children in the family, two of whom had been immunised a year before and one not. The one who had not been immunised contracted diphtheria, one of the immunised children escaped and the other immunised child was found to be carrying diphtheria organisms in the nose, and was treated in Hospital for this, although never a true diphtheria case.

In conclusion it may be said that no child who has had a full course of treatment under the present Scheme, together with the necessary period for the protection to be established, has contracted clinical diphtheria since. A number of children who have been immunised are known to have been exposed to infection in connection with the other cases occurring in the district, and have escaped the disease, presumably on account of the immunity conferred by the treatment.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.— The powers and duties under Section 88 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness and for the treatment of persons in this district suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes, are vested with the County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS.— It has not been found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with tuberculous employees in the milk trade and no compulsory removal to hospital has been required under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during 1938 are given in Table VIII.

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to the total tuberculosis deaths during the year was 1 to 5.3. There is not any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

Table VIII.—TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—			1					
1—				2			1	1
5—				5				
10—			1					
15—	1	1		1	1			
20—	2	1				2		
25—	6	4	4	4	2		1	1
35—	3	3	1		1	1		
45—	4	2			1			
55—	1				2	1		
65 & upwards			2				1	
Totals	17	11	9	12	7	4	3	2
	28		21		11		5	

In conclusion, I desire to thank Mr. Child for his valuable co-operation during the year under review. By his retirement the Council loses the services of a most efficient and capable administrator.

I also desire to thank all the other members of the staff for their help and their keen interest in all the work of the department.

A. V. STOCKS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

47, CROFTS BANK ROAD,

URMSTON.

JUNE, 1939.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URMSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I submit my report on the work of my department for the year ending 31st December, 1938 :

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE.

During the past year the collection of house and trade refuse was again carried out systematically and without undue incident or complaint. A weekly collection was made from all houses, and from shops, etc., where an arrangement for the collection of trade refuse was in operation.

The number of bins emptied steadily increases with the development of the district, and in 1938-39 10,800 bins were dealt with weekly, an increase on the previous year of 800 bins.

The number of occupied houses at 31st December, 1938, was 10,530 and taken on this figure the average weight of house refuse per occupied house was 15.16 cwts.

The whole of the house and trade refuse collection was disposed of by controlled tipping, and as the land available for this purpose is both adequate and imminently suited for this purpose, no complaints of any description have been made during the year.

The number of loads of refuse received and dealt with at the tip during 1938 was as follows :—

House Refuse	5914
Trade Refuse	2086
Road Sweepings	497
Gully Sludge	65
Highways Dept.	80
<hr/>	
Total ...	8642
<hr/>	

The average weight per load of house refuse was 1 ton 7 cwts., this figure being arrived at by weighing taken at various times during the year.

The increase of house refuse during 1938 as distinct from all other refuse dealt with at the tip was 1215 tons 18 cwts.

Transport under the control of the department comprises the following :—

2 “Morris Commercial”	6 cu. yds. capacity.
1 ” ”	4 ” ” ”
2 “Karrier Bantam”	5 ” ” ”
1 “S.D. Freighter”	7 ” ” ”
1 “Scammell”	6 ” ” ”

It has been necessary during the year to replace an old “Morris Commercial” vehicle, by a modern “Scammell” three-wheeler of 6 cu. yd. capacity, and although only recently acquired, this vehicle is proving satisfactory for the special work with which it is dealing.

The staff engaged on the Cleansing Service include 1 general foreman, 6 drivers, 12 ashbinmen, 1 tip chargehand, and 2 tip labourers.

STREET CLEANSING.

This work is carried out by hand sweeping on the beat system and street orderly trucks which are cleared several times per day by a collecting lorry. Four sections are operated with two men and an orderly, to each section, and one man and orderly is engaged on a constant round of points throughout the district where increased attention is required; this arrangement so far is satisfactory.

With regard to the gully cleansing, this is done at six-monthly intervals, by the “S.D. Freighter” which is provided with a convertible body for use as a mechanical gully emptier.

SHOPS ACTS, 1912-1936.

The district is well supplied with shopping facilities, for in addition to the retail shops, the Urmston Market ground, which is open twice weekly, provides for various traders.

Generally, the provisions of the Shops Acts 1912-1934 are observed faithfully by shopkeepers in the district, and although there have been some minor contraventions during the year, the cases were met by issue of a warning to each offender.

During the months of July and August, those shopkeepers who are normally exempt from the operation of the weekly half-day Closing Order were asked to vote, indicating whether or not they were in favour of the compulsory half-day closing being extended to their businesses. In only one instance, namely that of fishmongers, was the requisite two-thirds majority obtained.

In spite of the anomalies which indubitably exist in connection with the Shops (Sunday Trading Restrictions) Act, 1936, the traders in the district are endeavouring to comply with the provisions, although recent High Court judgments have served to further complicate the issue. During the year ten warning letters were sent to traders who had been found contravening the requirements of this Act.

PETROLEUM STORAGE.

The number of licences granted during the year under the Petroleum Act covering the storage of petroleum or petroleum products was 55.

In connection with the storage of carbide, five works in Trafford Park are involved, two for the preparation of dissolved acetylene gas in cylinders, one for the preparation of special carbide blocks, one for the process of welding, and one for warehousing purposes only.

Visits have been made to all these works at regular intervals during the year, and particular attention paid to precautions in case of fire. Minor contraventions were noted in a few instances but the firms in question readily collaborated with your inspector when attention was drawn to these shortcomings.

In concluding this my last annual report I wish to place on record my thanks for loyal co-operation of the members of the staff of the department, officials of all other departments, and Chairman and members of the Council, during my term of office.

R. G. CHILD,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

